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Some trickster wants your call?

LANSING—Has a caller left you a phony message on your answering machine, telling you to call "about your account"? Did it worry you, in these days of identity theft? What account?! Did puzzlement lead you to call back?

The Senate today passed House Bill 4423, which addresses this scam.

"This is clearly beyond the limits," said Patterson. "It is a lie. Telemarketers must not use a loophole in the law to lure people into calling them back; it is unethical. I am proud to be part of the effort to close this loophole."

At present, residents can be on a "Do Not Call" list; then only firms with whom they have an "existing business relationship" can call them. But tricksters have been using the "call-back" loophole.

You can register online for the "Do Not Call" list at www.donotcall.gov, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free.

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